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	First Named	Majid Anwar	
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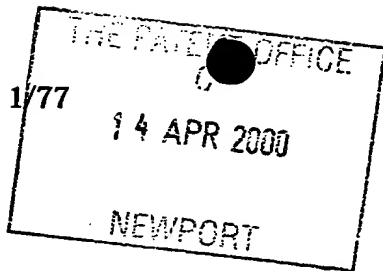


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NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

P24534/TCO/JCO

2. Patent application number

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0009129.8

14 APR 2000

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Picisel Technologies Limited  
Shaftesbury House  
5 Waterloo Street  
GLASGOW  
G2 6AY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

United Kingdom

7878226001

4. Title of the invention

"Digital Document Processing"

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Murgitroyd & Company

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

373 Scotland Street  
GLASGOW  
G5 8QA

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1198013

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

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7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

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- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
  - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
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Description 20

Claim(s) 7

Abstract -

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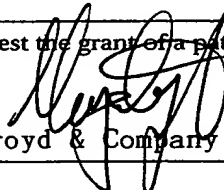
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I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

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13 April 2000

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

John Cooper

0141 307 8400

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1     **"Digital Document Processing"**

2  
3     **Field of the Invention**

4  
5     The invention relates to data processing systems. More  
6     particularly, the invention relates to methods and  
7     systems for processing "digital documents" (as defined  
8     herein) and to devices incorporating such methods and  
9     systems. In general terms, the invention is concerned  
10    with generating an output representation of a source  
11    document; e.g. as a visual display or as hardcopy.

12  
13    **Background to the Invention**

14  
15    As used herein, the term "digital document" is used to  
16    describe a digital representation of any type of data  
17    processed by a data processing system which is  
18    intended, ultimately, to be output in some form, in  
19    whole or in part, to a human user, typically by being  
20    displayed or reproduced visually (e.g. by means of a  
21    visual display unit or printer), or by text-to-speech  
22    conversion, etc. A digital document may include any

1 features capable of representation, including but not  
2 limited to the following: text; graphical images;  
3 animated graphical images; full motion video images;  
4 interactive icons, buttons, menus or hyperlinks. A  
5 digital document may also include non-visual elements  
6 such as audio (sound) elements.

7  
8 Data processing systems, such as personal computer  
9 systems, are typically required to process "digital  
10 documents", which may originate from any one of a  
11 number of local or remote sources and which may exist  
12 in any one of a wide variety of data formats ("file  
13 formats"). In order to generate an output version of  
14 the document, whether as a visual display or printed  
15 copy, for example, it is necessary for the computer  
16 system to interpret the original data file and to  
17 generate an output compatible with the relevant output  
18 device (e.g. monitor, or other visual display device,  
19 or printer). In general, this process will involve an  
20 application program adapted to interpret the data file,  
21 the operating system of the computer, a software  
22 "driver" specific to the desired output device and, in  
23 some cases (particularly for monitors or other visual  
24 display units), additional hardware in the form of an  
25 expansion card.

26  
27 This conventional approach to the processing of digital  
28 documents in order to generate an output is inefficient  
29 in terms of hardware resources, software overheads and  
30 processing time, and is completely unsuitable for low  
31 power, portable data processing systems, including  
32 wireless telecommunication systems, or for low cost



1 data processing systems such as network terminals, etc.  
2 Other problems are encountered in conventional digital  
3 document processing systems, including the need to  
4 configure multiple system components (including both  
5 hardware and software components) to interact in the  
6 desired manner, and inconsistencies in the processing  
7 of identical source material by different systems (e.g.  
8 differences in formatting, colour reproduction, etc).  
9 In addition, the conventional approach to digital  
10 document processing is unable to exploit the  
11 commonality and/or re-usability of file format  
12 components.

13

#### 14 **Summary of the Invention**

15

16 It is an object of the present invention to provide  
17 digital document processing methods and systems, and  
18 devices incorporating such methods and systems, which  
19 obviate or mitigate the aforesaid disadvantages of  
20 conventional methods and systems.

21

22 The invention, in its various aspects, is defined in  
23 the Claims appended hereto. Further aspects and  
24 features of the invention will be apparent from the  
25 following description.

26

27 In a first aspect, the invention relates to a digital  
28 document processing system comprising:

29 means for receiving an input bytestream  
30 representing source data in one of a plurality of  
31 predetermined data formats;

1           interpreting means for interpreting said  
2    bytestream;

3           converting means for converting interpreted  
4    content from said bytestream into an internal  
5    representation data format;

6           means for processing said internal representation  
7    data so as to generate output representation data  
8    adapted to drive an output device.

9

10   In a second aspect, the invention relates to a  
11   graphical user interface for a data processing system  
12   in which interactive visual displays employed by the  
13   user interface are generated by means of a digital  
14   document processing system in accordance with the first  
15   aspect of the invention and to data processing systems  
16   incorporating such a graphical user interface.

17

18   In ~~further~~ aspects, the invention relates to various  
19   types of device incorporating a digital document  
20   processing system in accordance with the first aspect  
21   of the invention, including hardware devices, data  
22   processing systems and peripheral devices.

23

24   In still another aspect, the invention relates to a  
25   graphical user interface for a data processing system,  
26   having one or more of a number of novel and/or enhanced  
27   features, and to data processing systems incorporating  
28   such a graphical user interface.

29

30   Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by  
31   way of example only, with reference to the accompanying  
32   drawing.

1

2

### 3     **Brief Description of the Drawing**

4

5     Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an embodiment of  
6     a digital document processing system in accordance with  
7     the present invention.

8

### 9     **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments**

10

11     Referring now to the drawings, a digital document  
12     processing system 8 embodying the invention is  
13     illustrated in Fig. 1.

14

15     In general terms, the system 8 will process a source  
16     document 10 comprising a data file in a known format.  
17     The input to the system 8 is a bytestream comprising  
18     the content of the source document. An input module 11  
19     identifies the file format of the source document on  
20     the basis of any one of a variety of criteria, such as  
21     an explicit file-type identification within the  
22     document, from the file name (particularly the file  
23     name extension), or from known characteristics of the  
24     content of particular file types. The bytestream is  
25     input to a "document agent" 12, specific to the file  
26     format of the source document. The document agent 12 is  
27     adapted to interpret the incoming bytestream and to  
28     convert it into a standard format employed by the  
29     system 8, resulting in an internal representation 14 of  
30     the source data in a "native" format suitable for  
31     processing by the system 8. The system 8 will  
32     generally include a plurality of different document

1 agents 12, each adapted to process one of a  
2 corresponding plurality of predetermined file formats.

3

4 The system 8 may also be applied to input received from  
5 an input device such as a digital camera or scanner.

6 In this case the input bytestream may originate  
7 directly from the input device, rather from a "source  
8 document" as such. However, the input bytestream will  
9 still be in a predictable data format suitable for  
10 processing by the system and, for the purposes of the  
11 invention, input received from such an input device may  
12 be regarded as a "source document".

13

14 The document agent 12 employs a library 16 of standard  
15 objects to generate the internal representation 14,  
16 which describes the content of the source document in  
17 terms of a collection of generic objects as defined in  
18 the library 16, together with parameters defining the  
19 properties of specific instances of the various generic  
20 objects within the document. It will be understood  
21 that the internal representation may be saved/stored in  
22 a file format native to the system and that the range  
23 of possible source documents 10 input to the system 8  
24 may include documents in the system's native file  
25 format. It is also possible for the internal  
26 representation 14 to be converted into any of a range  
27 of other file formats if required, using suitable  
28 conversion agents (not shown).

29

30 The generic objects employed in the internal  
31 representation 14 will typically include: text, bitmap  
32 graphics and vector graphics (which may or may not be

1 animated and which may be two- or three-dimensional),  
2 video, audio, and a variety of types of interactive  
3 object such as buttons and icons. The parameters  
4 defining specific instances of generic objects will  
5 generally include dimensional co-ordinates defining the  
6 physical shape, size and location of the object and any  
7 relevant temporal data for defining objects whose  
8 properties vary with time (allowing the system to deal  
9 with dynamic document structures and/or display  
10 functions). For text objects, the parameters will  
11 normally also include a font and size to be applied to  
12 a character string. Object parameters may also define  
13 other properties, such as transparency.

14

15 The format of the internal representation 14 separates  
16 the "structure" (or "layout") of the documents, as  
17 described by the object types and their parameters,  
18 from the "content" of the various objects; e.g. the  
19 character string (content) of a text object is  
20 separated from the font, character size and dimensional  
21 parameters of the object; the image data (content) of a  
22 graphic object is separated from its dimensional  
23 parameters. This allows document structures to be  
24 defined in a very compact manner and provides the  
25 option for content data to be stored remotely and to be  
26 fetched by the system only when needed.

27

28 The internal representation 14 describes the document  
29 and its constituent objects in terms of "high-level"  
30 descriptions.

31

1     The internal representation data 14 is input to a  
2     parsing and rendering module 18 which generates a  
3     context-specific representation 20 or "view" of the  
4     document represented by the internal representation 14.  
5     The required view may be of the whole document or of  
6     part(s) (subset(s)) thereof. The parser/renderer 18  
7     receives view control inputs 40 which define the  
8     viewing context and any related temporal parameters of  
9     the specific document view which is to be generated.  
10    For example, the system may be required to generate a  
11    zoomed view of part of a document, and then to pan or  
12    scroll the zoomed view to display adjacent portions of  
13    the document. The view control inputs 40 are  
14    interpreted by the parser/renderer 18 in order to  
15    determine which parts of the internal representation  
16    are required for a particular view and how, when and  
17    for how long the view is to be displayed.  
18  
19    The context-specific representation/view 20 is again  
20    expressed in terms of object types and parameters,  
21    using the library 16.  
22  
23    The parser/renderer 18 may also perform additional pre-  
24    processing functions on the relevant parts of the  
25    internal representation 14 when generating the required  
26    view 20 of the source document 10. The view  
27    representation 20 is input to a shape processor module  
28    22 for final processing to generate a final output 24,  
29    in a format suitable for driving an output device 26  
30    (or multiple output devices), such as a display device  
31    or printer.  
32

1 The pre-processing functions of the parser/renderer 18  
2 may include colour correction, resolution  
3 adjustment/enhancement and anti-aliasing. Resolution  
4 enhancement may comprise scaling functions which  
5 preserve the legibility of the content of objects when  
6 displayed or reproduced by the target output device.  
7 Resolution adjustment may be context-sensitive; e.g.  
8 the display resolution of particular objects may be  
9 reduced while the displayed document view is being  
10 panned or scrolled and increased when the document view  
11 is static.

12  
13 There may be a feedback path 42 between the  
14 renderer/parser 18 and the internal representation 14;  
15 e.g. for the purpose of triggering an update of the  
16 content of the internal representation 14, such as in  
17 the case where the document 10 represented by the  
18 internal representation comprises a multi-frame  
19 animation.

20  
21 The output representation 20 from the parser/renderer  
22 18 expresses the document in terms of "primitive"  
23 objects. For each document object, the representation  
24 20 preferably defines the object at least in terms of a  
25 physical, rectangular boundary box, the actual shape of  
26 the object bounded by the boundary box, the data  
27 content of the object, and its transparency.

28  
29 The shape processor 22 interprets the representation 20  
30 and converts it into an output frame format 24  
31 appropriate to the target output device 26; e.g. a dot-  
32 map for a printer, vector instruction set for a

1     plotter, or bitmap for a display device. An output  
2     control input 44 to the shape processor 22 defines the  
3     necessary parameters for the shape processor 22 to  
4     generate output 24 suitable for a particular output  
5     device 26.

6  
7     The shape processor 22 preferably processes the objects  
8     defined by the view representation 20 in terms of  
9     "shape" (i.e. the outline shape of the object), "fill"  
10    (the data content of the object) and "alpha" (the  
11    transparency of the object), performs scaling and  
12    clipping appropriate to the required view and output  
13    device, and expresses the object in terms appropriate  
14    to the output device (typically in terms of pixels by  
15    scan conversion or the like, for most types of display  
16    device or printer).

17  
18    The shape processor 22 preferably includes an edge  
19    buffer which defines the shape of an object in terms of  
20    scan-converted pixels, and preferably applies anti-  
21    aliasing to the outline shape. Anti-aliasing is  
22    preferably performed in a manner determined by the  
23    characteristics of the output device 26 (i.e. on the  
24    basis of the control input 44), by applying a grey-  
25    scale ramp across the object boundary. This approach  
26    enables memory efficient shape-clipping and shape-  
27    intersection processes.

28  
29    A look-up table may be employed to define multiple tone  
30    response curves, allowing non-linear rendering control  
31    (gamma correction).

32



1 The individual objects processed by the shape processor  
2 22 are combined in the composite output frame 24. The  
3 quality of the final output can also be controlled by  
4 the user via the output control input 44.

5  
6 The shape processor 22 has a multi-stage pipeline  
7 architecture which lends itself to parallel processing  
8 of multiple objects, or of multiple documents, or of  
9 multiple subsets of one or more document, by using  
10 multiple instances of the shape processor pipeline.  
11 The pipeline architecture is also easily modified to  
12 include additional processing functions (e.g. filter  
13 functions) if required. Outputs from multiple shape  
14 processors 22 may generate multiple output frames 24 or  
15 may be combined in a single output frame 24.

16  
17 The system architecture is modular in nature. This  
18 enables, for example, further document agents to be  
19 added as and when required, to deal with additional  
20 source file formats. The modular architecture also  
21 allows individual modules such as the library 16,  
22 parser/renderer 18 or shape processor 22 to be modified  
23 or upgraded without requiring changes to other modules.

24  
25 The system architecture as a whole also lends itself to  
26 parallelism in whole or in part for simultaneous  
27 processing of multiple input documents 10a, 10b etc. or  
28 subsets of documents, in one or more file formats, via  
29 one or more document agents 12, 12a. The integrated,  
30 modular nature of the system allows multiple instances  
31 of system modules to be spawned within a data  
32 processing system or device as and when required,

1 limited only by available processing and memory  
2 resources.

3  
4 The potential for flexible parallelism provided by the  
5 system as a whole and the shape processor 22 in  
6 particular allows the display path for a given device  
7 to be optimised for available bandwidth and memory.  
8 Display updates and animations may be improved, being  
9 quicker and requiring less memory. The  
10 object/parameter document model employed is  
11 deterministic and consistent. The system is fully  
12 scalable and allows multiple instances of the system  
13 across multiple CPUs.

14  
15 The parser/renderer 18 and shape processor 22 interact  
16 dynamically in response to view control inputs 40, in a  
17 manner which optimises the use of available memory and  
18 bandwidth. This applies particularly to re-draw  
19 functions when driving a visual display, e.g. when the  
20 display is being scrolled or panned by a user.

21  
22 Firstly, the system preferably implements a scalable  
23 deferred re-draw model, such that the display  
24 resolution of a document view, or of one or more  
25 objects within a view, varies dynamically according to  
26 the manner in which the display is to be modified. As  
27 previously mentioned, this might typically involve an  
28 object being displayed at reduced resolution whilst  
29 being moved on-screen and being displayed at full  
30 resolution when at rest. The system may employ  
31 multiple levels of display quality for this purpose.  
32 Typically, this will involve pre-built, low resolution

1 bitmap representations of document objects and/or  
2 dynamically built and scaled bitmaps, with or without  
3 interpolation. This approach provides a highly  
4 responsive display which makes best use of available  
5 memory/bandwidth.

6  
7 The interaction of the renderer/parser 18 and shape  
8 processor 22 preferably also involves dividing the page  
9 to be viewed into zones. Each zone has associated with  
10 it a list of all objects contained within or  
11 overlapping that zone. Re-draws can then be processed  
12 on the basis of the zones, so that the system need only  
13 process objects associated with the relevant zones  
14 affected by the re-draw. This approach facilitates  
15 parallel processing and improves efficiency and reduces  
16 redundancy. The use of zones also facilitates the use  
17 of the system to generate different outputs for  
18 different display devices (e.g. for generating a  
19 composite/mosaic output for display by an array of  
20 separate display screens).

21  
22 The ability to process transparent objects is a  
23 significant feature of the system. However, this  
24 necessitates the use of off-screen buffering in the  
25 shape processor 22 in order to assemble a final output  
26 frame. Typically, an off-screen buffer will cover an  
27 area larger than the immediate display area, allowing a  
28 limited degree of panning/scrolling within the buffer  
29 area, but the entire buffer has to be re-centred and  
30 re-built when the required display moves outwith these  
31 limits. Preferably, the system improves the efficiency  
32 of such buffering processes by defining the buffer

1 content as an array of tiles, indexed in an ordered  
2 list. When the required display view moves outwith the  
3 buffer area, it is then only necessary to discard those  
4 tiles which are no longer required, build new tiles to  
5 cover the new area of the display and update the tile  
6 list. This is faster and more efficient than  
7 conventional buffering processes and facilitates the  
8 use of multiple buffering and off-screen caching. It  
9 also facilitates interruptable re-draw functions (e.g.  
10 so that a current re-draw may be interrupted and a new  
11 re-draw initiated in response to user input).

12

13 The zoning and tiling schemes described above are  
14 independent in principle but may be combined  
15 advantageously; i.e. zones may correlate with one or  
16 more tiles. Again this facilitates parallelism and  
17 optimises use of system resources.

18

19 The system preferably employs a device-independent  
20 colour model, suitably a luminance/chrominance model  
21 such as the CIE L\*a\*b\* 1976 model. This reduces  
22 redundancy in graphic objects, improves data  
23 compressibility and improves consistency of colour  
24 output between different output devices. Device-  
25 dependent colour correction can be applied on the basis  
26 of the device-dependent control input 44 to the shape  
27 processor 22.

28

29 Fig. 1 shows the system having an input end at which  
30 the source bytestream is received and an output end  
31 where the final output frame 24 is output from the  
32 system. However, it will be understood that the system

1 may include intermediate inputs and outputs at other  
2 intermediate stages, such as for fetching data content  
3 or for saving/converting data generated in the course  
4 of the process.

5

6 The system 8 may be incorporated into a variety of  
7 types of data processing systems and devices, and into  
8 peripheral devices, in a number of different ways.

9 In a general purpose data processing system (the "host  
10 system"), the system of the present invention may be  
11 incorporated alongside the operating system and  
12 applications of the host system or may be incorporated  
13 fully or partially into the host operating system.

14

15 For example, the system of the present invention  
16 enables rapid display of a variety of types of data  
17 files on portable data processing devices with LCD  
18 displays without requiring the use of browsers or  
19 application programs. This class of data processing  
20 devices requires small size, low power processors for  
21 portability. Typically, this requires the use of  
22 advanced RISC-type core processors designed into ASICs  
23 (application specific integrated circuits), in order  
24 that the electronics package is as small and highly  
25 integrated as possible. This type of device also has  
26 limited random access memory and typically has no non-  
27 volatile data store (e.g. hard disk). Conventional  
28 operating system models, such as are employed in  
29 standard desktop computing systems (PCs), require high  
30 powered central processors and large amounts of memory  
31 in order to process digital documents and generate  
32 useful output, and are entirely unsuited for this type

1 of data processing device. In particular, conventional  
2 systems do not provide for the processing of multiple  
3 file formats in an integrated manner. By contrast, the  
4 present invention utilises common processes and  
5 pipelines for all file formats, thereby providing a  
6 highly integrated document processing system which is  
7 extremely efficient in terms of power consumption and  
8 usage of system resources.

9  
10 The system of the present invention may be integrated  
11 at the BIOS level of portable data processing devices  
12 to enable document processing and output with much  
13 lower overheads than conventional system models.  
14 Alternatively, the invention may be implemented at the  
15 lowest system level just above the transport protocol  
16 stack. For example, the system may be incorporated  
17 into a network device (card) or system, to provide in-  
18 line processing of network traffic (e.g. working at the  
19 packet level in a TCP/IP system).

20  
21 In a particular device, the system of the invention is  
22 configured to operate with a predetermined set of data  
23 file formats and particular output devices; e.g. the  
24 visual display unit of the device and/or at least one  
25 type of printer.

26  
27 Examples of portable data processing devices which may  
28 employ the present system include "palmtop" computers,  
29 portable digital assistants (PDAs, including tablet-  
30 type PDAs in which the primary user interface comprises  
31 a graphical display with which the user interacts  
32 directly by means of a stylus device), internet-enabled

1 mobile telephones and other communications devices,  
2 etc.

3  
4 The system may also be incorporated into low cost data  
5 processing terminals such as enhanced telephones and  
6 "thin" network client terminals (e.g. network terminals  
7 with limited local processing and storage resources),  
8 and "set-top boxes" for use in interactive/internet-  
9 enabled cable TV systems.

10

11 When integrated with the operating system of a data  
12 processing system, the system of the present invention  
13 may also form the basis of a novel graphical user  
14 interface (GUI) for the operating system (OS).

15 Documents processed and displayed by the system may  
16 include interactive features such as menus, buttons,  
17 icons etc. which provide the user interface to the  
18 underlying functions of the operating system. By  
19 extension, a complete OS/GUI may be expressed,  
20 processed and displayed in terms of system "documents".  
21 The OS/GUI could comprise a single document with  
22 multiple "chapters".

23

24 The system enables and/or facilitates a variety of  
25 novel and/or enhanced GUI features, including, but not  
26 limited to, the following:

27

28 - The use of thumbnail images of documents for  
29 navigation purposes and for recording user activities  
30 (history); e.g. when browsing network content.

- 1     -     Document interaction functions and gesture-based
- 2     commands using pointing devices and/or touch-screen
- 3     technology; e.g.:
  - 4         allowing document interaction by means of gestures
  - 5         analogous to actions used with physical documents
  - 6         or books, such as dragging a pointer across a page
  - 7         in order to turn the page ("page-flipping"),
  - 8         dragging a pointer to curl back the corner of a
  - 9         page to view underlying parts of succeeding pages
  - 10        ("page curl");
  - 11        allowing tool selection by dragging tools from
  - 12        toolbars and de-selection by dragging tools to
  - 13        predetermined parts of the display;
  - 14        symbolic cursor movements to indicate particular
  - 15        OS commands, such as "tick", "cross-out" and
  - 16        "circle" movements for "OK", "delete" and
  - 17        "select"; editing commands based on conventional
  - 18        "proof-readers" notation;
- 19     -     Re-formatting document views by rotation or
- 20     switching between landscape and portrait formats;
- 21     -     Utilities and tools such as:
  - 22         a floating virtual "magnifying glass" which
  - 23         magnifies the underlying document area, in which
  - 24         the magnified view is based on the internal
  - 25         representation 14 of the source document rather
  - 26         than on a bitmap representation of the document
  - 27         and which may modify document parameters such as
  - 28         background and/or foreground colours;
  - 29         a floating virtual, translucent keyboard for text
  - 30         input using a pointing device/touch screen;



1 a floating, virtual, translucent ruler which is  
2 re-scalable using any of a variety of user-  
3 selectable units.

4 - Alternative menu or "tabbed page" drag out/pull  
5 down functions.

6 - Simulation of physical inertia/momentum applied to  
7 page scrolling/panning functions (e.g. when a zoomed  
8 display of a page is dragged to scroll the display and  
9 released, the moving display decelerates gradually  
10 after release).

11

12 GUI features of this type provide new or enhanced  
13 functionality and/or improve the subjective quality of  
14 the user interface.

15

16 The system of the present invention may also be  
17 incorporated into peripheral devices such as hardcopy  
18 devices (printers and plotters), display devices (such  
19 as digital projectors), networking devices, input  
20 devices (cameras, scanners etc.) and also multi-  
21 function peripherals (MFPs).

22

23 When incorporated into a printer, the system enables  
24 the printer to receive raw data files from the host  
25 data processing system and to reproduce the content of  
26 the original data file correctly, without the need for  
27 particular applications or drivers provided by the host  
28 system. This avoids the need to configure a computer  
29 system to drive a particular type of printer. The  
30 present system directly generates a dot-mapped image of  
31 the source document suitable for output by the printer  
32 (this is true whether the system is incorporated into

1 the printer itself or into the host system). Similar  
2 considerations apply to other hardcopy devices such as  
3 plotters.

4

5 When incorporated into a display device, such as a  
6 projector, the system again enables the device to  
7 display the content of the original data file correctly  
8 without the use of applications or drivers on the host  
9 system, and without the need for specific configuration  
10 of the host system and/or display device. Peripheral  
11 devices of these types, when equipped with the present  
12 system, may receive and output data files from any  
13 source, via any type of data communications network.

14

15 From the foregoing, it will be understood that the  
16 system of the present invention may be "hard-wired;  
17 e.g. implemented in ROM and/or integrated into ASICs or  
18 other single-chip systems, or may be implemented as  
19 firmware (programmable ROM such as flashable ePROM), or  
20 as software, being stored locally or remotely and being  
21 fetched and executed as required by a particular  
22 device.

23

24 Improvements and modifications may be incorporated  
25 without departing from the scope of the present  
26 invention.

27

1     Claims

2

3     1.    A digital document processing system comprising:

4           means for receiving an input bytestream

5    representing source data in one of a plurality of  
6    predetermined data formats;

7           interpreting means for interpreting said  
8    bytestream;

9           converting means for converting interpreted  
10   content from said bytestream into an internal  
11   representation data format;

12          means for processing said internal representation  
13   data so as to generate output representation data  
14   adapted to drive an output device.

15

16    2.    A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said  
17    source data defines the content and structure of a  
18    digital document, and wherein said internal

19   representation data describes said structure in terms  
20   of generic objects defining a plurality of data types  
21   and parameters defining properties of specific  
22   instances of generic objects, separately from said  
23   content.

24

25    3.    A system as claimed in Claim 2, further including  
26    a library of generic objects, said internal  
27    representation data being based on the content of said  
28    library.

29

30    4.    A system as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3,  
31    including a parsing and rendering module adapted to  
32    generate an object and parameter based representation

1 of a specific view of at least part of said internal  
2 representation data, on the basis of a first control  
3 input to said parsing and rendering module.  
4

5 5. A system as defined in Claim 4, further including  
6 a shape processing module adapted to receive said  
7 object and parameter based representation of said  
8 specific view from said parsing and rendering module  
9 and to convert said object and parameter based  
10 representation into an output data format suitable for  
11 driving a particular output device.  
12

13 6. A system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said shape  
14 processing module processes said objects on the basis  
15 of a boundary box defining the boundary of an object, a  
16 shape defining the actual shape of the object bounded  
17 by the boundary box, the data content of the object and  
18 the transparency of the object.  
19

20 7. A system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said shape  
21 processor is adapted to apply grey-scale anti-aliasing  
22 to the edges of said objects.  
23

24 8. A system as claimed in Claim 5, Claim 6 or Claim  
25 7, wherein said shape processing module has a pipeline  
26 architecture.  
27

28 9. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 5 to 8,  
29 wherein said shape processor employs at least one off-  
30 screen display buffer to generate said output data and  
31 wherein said at least one off-screen display buffer is  
32 defined by an indexed array of tiles.

1 10. A system as defined in Claim 9, wherein updating  
2 of the content of said at least one off-screen display  
3 buffer is performed by removing selected tiles from  
4 said array, adding new tiles to said array, and up-  
5 dating the indexing of said tiles.

6  
7 11. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 5 to 10,  
8 wherein said parsing and rendering module is adapted to  
9 define at least part of said internal representation  
10 data in terms of a plurality of zones, each zone having  
11 an associated list of objects contained within and  
12 overlapping said zone, and said shape processor is  
13 adapted to process said object and parameter based  
14 representation on the basis of said zones and  
15 associated lists.

16  
17 12. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 5 to 11,  
18 wherein the quality of a display view represented by  
19 said output data may be varied dependent on said first  
20 control input.

21  
22 13. A system as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the  
23 quality of said display view may be varied in multiple  
24 steps.

25  
26 14. A system as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 13,  
27 wherein said object parameters include dimensional,  
28 physical and temporal parameters.

29  
30 15. A system as claimed in any preceding Claim,  
31 wherein the system employs a chrominance/luminance-  
32 based colour model to describe colour data.

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16. A system as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the system is adapted for multiple parallel implementation in whole or in part for processing one or more sets of source data from one or more data sources and for generating one or more sets of output representation data.

17. A graphical user interface for a data processing system in which interactive visual displays employed by the user interface are generated by means of a digital document processing system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16.

18. A data processing device incorporating a graphical user interface as claimed in Claim 17.

19. A hardware device for data processing and/or storage encoding a digital document processing system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16.

20. A hardware device as claimed in Claim 19, further including a core processor system.

21. A hardware device as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said core processor is a RISC processor.

22. A data processing system including a digital document processing system as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16.

1 23. A data processing system as claimed in Claim 22,  
2 wherein said data processing system comprises a  
3 portable data processing device.  
4

5 24. A data processing system as claimed in Claim 23,  
6 wherein said portable data processing device comprises  
7 a wireless telecommunications device.  
8

9 25. A data processing system as claimed in Claim 22,  
10 wherein said data processing system comprises a network  
11 user-terminal.  
12

13 26. A peripheral device for use with a data processing  
14 system, including a digital document processing system  
15 as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 16.  
16

17 27. A peripheral device as claimed in Claim 26,  
18 wherein said peripheral device is a visual display  
19 device.  
20

21 28. A peripheral device as claimed in Claim 26,  
22 wherein said peripheral device is a hardcopy output  
23 device.  
24

25 29. A peripheral device as claimed in Claim 26,  
26 wherein said peripheral device is an input device.  
27

28 30. A peripheral device as claimed in Claim 26,  
29 wherein said peripheral device is a network device.  
30

1 31. A peripheral device as claimed in Claim 26,  
2 wherein said peripheral device is a multi-function  
3 peripheral device.  
4

5 32. A graphical user interface for a data processing  
6 system, including at least one of the following  
7 features:

- 8 - the use of thumbnail images of documents for  
9 navigation purposes and for recording user activities;
- 10 - document interaction functions and gesture-based  
11 commands using pointing devices and/or touch-screen  
12 technology, including document interaction by means of  
13 gestures analogous to actions used with physical  
14 documents or books;
- 15 - tool selection by dragging tools from toolbars and  
16 de-selection by dragging tools to predetermined parts  
17 of the display;
- 18 - symbolic cursor movements to indicate commands;
- 19 - re-formatting document views by rotation or  
20 switching between landscape and portrait formats;
- 21 - alternative menu or "tabbed page" drag out/pull  
22 down functions.
- 23 - simulated physical inertia/momentum applied to  
24 page scrolling/panning functions.

25

26 33. A graphical user interface for a data processing  
27 system, including at least one of the following  
28 utilities/tools:

- 29 - a floating virtual magnifying glass adapted to  
30 magnify an underlying document area, in which the  
31 magnified view is based on source document data;



1       - a floating virtual, translucent keyboard for  
2       text input using a pointing device/touch screen;  
3       - a floating, virtual, translucent ruler which is  
4       re-scalable using any of a variety of user-  
5       selectable units.

6

7       34. A data processing system incorporating a graphical  
8       user interface as claimed in Claim 32 or Claim 33.

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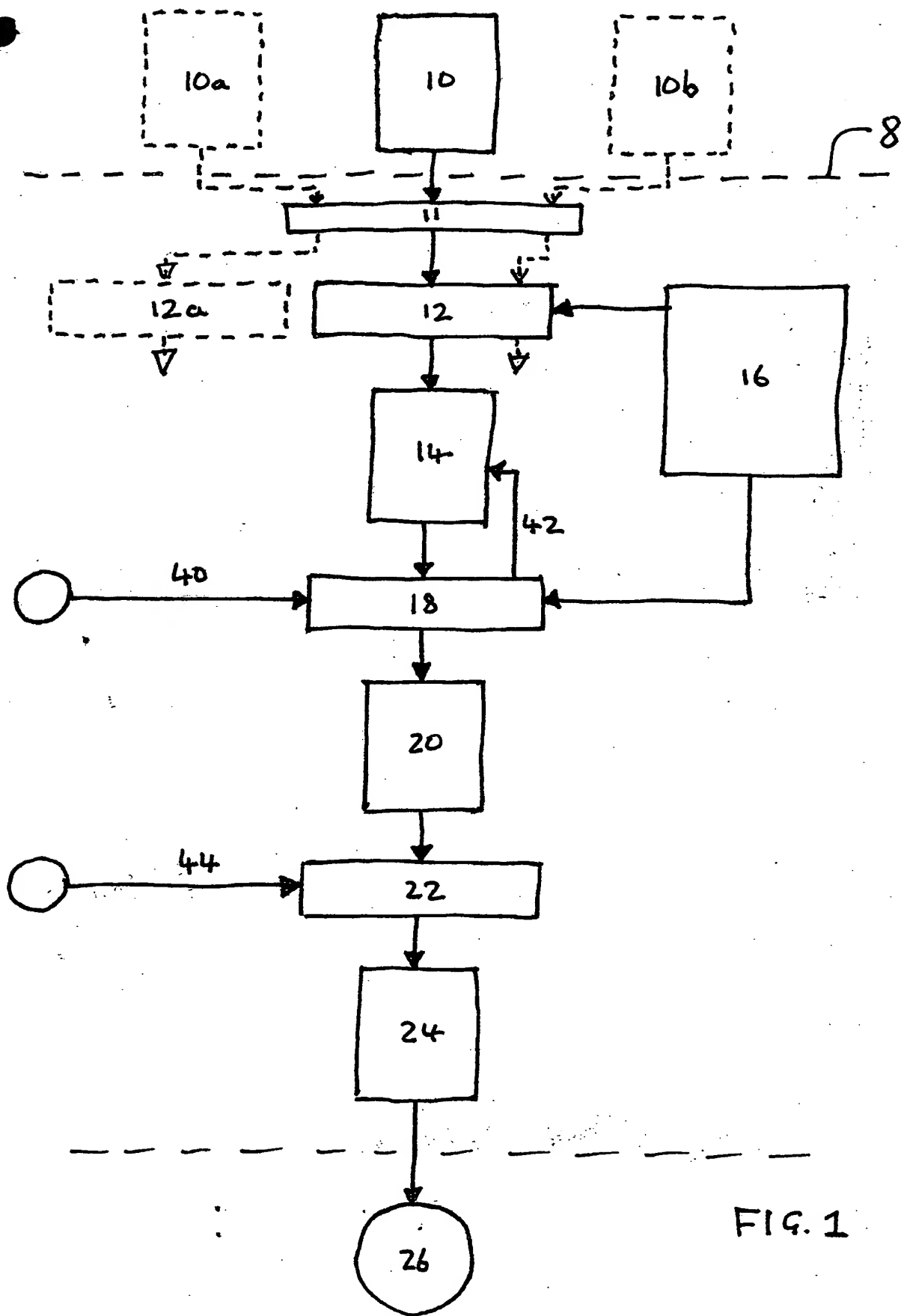


FIG. 1

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